

Esmeralda Sierra. While Raúl sadly passed away in 2021, Silvette is employed as a Spanish Speaking Employment Counselor at the Erie County Department of Social Services, and Esmeralda is the current president of the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York, Inc.

Following his service in the Army, in 1988, Mr. Sierra earned his Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from La Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico as a part of the GI Bill. He then completed his Juris Doctor and began working in Ponce, Puerto Rico as an Administrative Judge for the Department of Consumer Affairs. Mr. Sierra also opened a private law practice in Puerto Rico, and worked there until moving to Buffalo. In Buffalo, Mr. Sierra worked for the New York State Division of Human Rights as a Human Rights Specialist until his retirement.

Luis Sierra was one of more than 80,000 Hispanic Americans to serve during the Vietnam War who, despite facing racial discrimination, bravely defended our country. We thank Mr. Sierra for his contributions to the war effort and his exemplary behavior while enlisted in the military.

Today, we join the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York to celebrate the achievements of Mr. Luis Sierra. Madam Speaker, we stand together today alongside Mr. Sierra, his family, and other Hispanic-American service members for whom we are eternally grateful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 302, I mistakenly voted yes when I intended to vote no.

TRIBUTE TO A GREAT AMERICAN

HON. CHRIS STEWART

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, Mr. Ed Mahen who died this past fall. Edward C. Mahen, Jr., was a dedicated civil servant, an Air Force combat veteran and an extraordinary engineer. Ed worked for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) for more than 23 years. Prior to his work for the NRO, he honorably served for 27 years as an active duty officer for the United States Air Force, including as a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Ed was always excited about his work. He was fascinated by science his entire life, and he served as a trailblazer throughout his career. He was a leader, a driving force behind innovation, and a model of procurement excellence. Recognized for his contributions, he received a number of awards over his career, including that of Pioneer of National Reconnaissance. His work profoundly influenced the NRO's capabilities, and he has left an indelible mark across the Intelligence Community (IC).

Born in rural Missouri, Ed was raised by his mother and father who were born during the

Great Depression. His upbringing was greatly influenced by his parents' experience, as he was taught the importance of frugality, hard work, self-reliance and family loyalty.

Once Ed entered high school, he was exposed to his first experience with formal education. He grew up in the post-World War II period with its proliferation of science and technology, including rockets and nuclear weapons. While still living at home, Ed built a high-frequency radio telescope to listen to the radio emissions of the planet Jupiter as it would rise at night. In high school, he excelled in science and math. After graduation, Ed worked his way through the University of Missouri and graduated with a bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in electrical engineering.

In 1969, Ed Mahen was drafted for the Vietnam War and joined the United States Air Force. His formal education was over, but Ed was a firm believer in life-long learning. He stated, "Education is a continuum. It doesn't stop when you get a degree, and you have to continue to learn. So I never stopped going to school; I just stopped going to formal school . . . If I want to learn cryptography, I go off and study cryptography for a while. And I could figure it out. I could learn about it and apply it . . . So you just never stop learning."

From May 1972 to May 1973, Ed Mahen took an assignment on an AC-130 gunship in Vietnam. As was the case for many young Americans, this was a time of harrowing conflict and quick growth as he matured in a combat zone. In 1972 alone, the squadron lost one-fourth of its airplanes. Ed reflected, "It was the first time anybody really tried to kill me. We tried to die a lot of times." In that year, Ed earned two distinguished flying crosses and eleven air medals, and he flew 144 combat missions. At the end of his tour, Ed returned to the United States and served in various assignments in the Air Force, including overseeing all of the classified strategic and electronic warfare programs. He also served as a technical director for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

In 1996, Ed Mahen went to work for the Secretary of Defense to help resolve the situation in the Balkans, serving as the Director of the Bosnian Command and Control Initiative. He helped establish a peace-keeping mission with no loss of life and kept the price tag within budget.

Upon his return to the United States, as a Colonel in July 1997, the logical next step was promotion to Brigadier General. However, this would entail an assignment away from his family across the country. His upbringing and lessons from his parents meant putting family first. So he retired from a highly successful career in the Air Force.

In 1998, as a civilian, Ed Mahen was recruited by the Director of the NRO to join the agency, where he served as the Chief Technology Officer for the Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate. In the years that followed, he was recognized repeatedly for his many contributions in the field of national reconnaissance. His work defeated current and emerging threats from terrorism and nuclear weapons proliferation—he became a standard of success at the NRO.

In 2009, Ed was nominated for the NRO Director's Award for Excellence in Acquisition. This time he was recognized for developing

capabilities that "have yielded actionable intelligence and made significant contributions to IC missions." Further, "his mission-focused, technically driven, and results-oriented leadership has and will continue to deliver revolutionary new capabilities to help counter the most critical threats to our Nation's security." As well as his technical accomplishments, he served as a role model and mentor for his team.

In January 2020, Ed Mahen was named a Pioneer of National Reconnaissance, the highest award offered by the NRO. The Director of the NRO, Dr. Chris Scolese noted, "Mr. Mahen's work enabled intelligence analysts to understand adversary capabilities and intent and helped our warfighters locate and track adversaries."

Ed Mahen was a remarkable leader, applying the lessons learned over a lifetime of experience and focusing that knowledge on practical, technical problem solving for national security challenges. He developed a unique ability to hire junior people and groom them into subject matter experts. He explained, "The key to program management, the first thing you do is put yourself out of business. So the first thing you do is hire the people who are going to replace you. So this program pretty much runs itself . . . it's sort of the biblical story of teaching people to fish. Teach people to be self-sufficient."

Ed was a storyteller, and he maintained a sense of humor. He illustrated his work at the NRO by telling the story of "Stone Soup," concluding, "A lot of these programs are finding the pieces to stitch together so that you can do things very quickly." Most importantly, he never lost his enthusiasm and wonder for the accomplishments of the NRO. He once reflected, "I think the NRO is a magic place. And I think with visionary leadership, the NRO could do anything."

After nearly 50 years of service to the country, and still an active innovator, Ed Mahen passed away on September 29, 2021. Madam Speaker, our Nation has been blessed and prospered with greater national security by the lifetime of service of Ed Mahen. May he rest in peace and may his wife and family be comforted knowing their husband and father was a true patriot—one who endlessly loved them and his country.

HONORING COLONEL RICK ZAMPELLI

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Colonel Rick Zampelli for his exemplary dedication to duty and service as the Division Chief of the Army House Liaison Division. Rick is transitioning from his current assignment to military retirement.

Colonel Zampelli was born in Akron, Ohio in 1972 and commissioned from the U.S. Military Academy as an Aviation Officer in 1994. Throughout his career, he has served in several command and staff assignments, including multiple operational deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Throughout his career, Rick has served in a variety of significant staff assignments to include Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Aviation and

Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama; Director, Force 2025, Army Capabilities Integration Center, Fort Eustis, Virginia; J3 Air Operations Officer, Headquarters, U.S. Special Operations Command, Tampa, Florida; Battalion Operations Officer, 1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and Brigade Personnel Officer, 82d Aviation Brigade, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

His military education includes the Aviation Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and U.S. Naval War College. Rick holds a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy.

Rick's significant awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and Air Medal with V Device. He is a Master Army Aviator and has completed Airborne School; Air Assault School; OH-58 Instructor Pilot Course; Jumpmaster School; and Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape-C course.

The foundation of Rick's success is his family. His wife, Jayne, and his son, Tristan, are the light of his life. I thank Jayne and Tristan for their sacrifices made in Rick supporting our country.

Madam Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to highlight the life and service of a true American and Ohioan. Our country has benefited from his extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion for the Army profession and for the State of Ohio. It is with great appreciation that I recognize and commend the life and service of Colonel Rick Zampelli.

TRIBUTE TO VIETNAM WAR VETERAN ARTURO LARA

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of United States Air Force Veteran Arturo Lara, who passed away on May 8, 2020. Mr. Lara hailed from my hometown of San Antonio, Texas and is survived by his wife of 58 years, Consuelo R. Lara, eldest son Arturo R. Lara, Jr., daughter Elizabeth R. Lara, and youngest son Louis R. Lara. Although I am saddened to learn of his passing, I am confident his memory will live on through his many loved ones.

Arturo Lara was born in San Antonio, Texas on July 16, 1943, to Simon and Alfonsa Vargas Lara. At a young age, Mr. Lara knew he wanted to be a family man and to serve his country. With permission from his grandfather, Simon Lara, he enlisted in the United States Air Force at the age of 16. Mr. Lara courageously served our country for 24 years, taking on different duty assignments across the globe. Mr. Lara notably served on high-risk missions as an Air Commando under Special Forces. During the Vietnam conflict, Mr. Lara was captured by enemy forces for 90 days to later escape shortly after his 18th birthday. Upon retiring from the Air Force, Mr. Lara went on to civil service and worked at Kelly Air

Force Base in San Antonio and Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas. After 51 years of combined military and civil service, Mr. Lara retired in 2011.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the life and service of a person who dedicated themselves to family and country. The sacrifice and commitment our service members undertake is immeasurable and should never be taken for granted. We thank Mr. Lara for his many years of service and commitment to our great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 302 on passage of H.R. 5271, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOOD SAFETY ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 2022

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the Food Safety Administration Act, which I am introducing—along with Senator DICK DURBIN—today.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates about 80 percent of our food supply—and consumers and industry depend on the FDA food program to perform its regulatory role. Every year, nearly 48 million people get sick from one of the 31 pathogens known to cause foodborne illness. This results in 128,000 Americans being hospitalized each year—and 3,000 Americans dying of foodborne diseases. This is common, costly—and preventable.

It is becoming increasingly clear that public confidence in the ability of the FDA to protect our food supply is diminishing. Between inadequate responses to recalls, a failure to implement a culture of outbreak prevention, and proposed rules and initiatives that languish for years, the food program has struggled in its role to protect consumers.

The recent infant formula crisis, exacerbated by substandard safety practices at the Abbott Nutrition facility in Sturgis, Michigan, cannot be allowed to happen again. Parents and caregivers should never have to desperately scramble to find infant formula and wonder how they will feed their children. And when or if they finally find formula, they face an impossible choice as they wonder whether it is safe for consumption. We should not have to choose between safety and supply when it comes to feeding our babies. I reject this false and dangerous dichotomy. This was a colossal failure of Abbott Nutrition and the FDA, which dragged its feet to investigate a whistleblower report that unveiled damning allegations of wrongdoing and neglect of Abbott.

Food safety is currently a second-class citizen at the FDA. It is clear that food safety is

not prioritized at the FDA, which has the authority to appoint an empowered Deputy Commissioner of Foods with a relevant background in food safety—but has yet to do so. The lack of a single, full-time expert leader affects all aspects of FDA's food program. And perhaps the most significant impact is the delayed implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act and the New Era of Smarter Food Safety blueprint. These key initiatives depend on all FDA food program units, like the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Center for Veterinary Medicine, and the Office of Regulatory Affairs—working together with state partners and with a common strategic direction, clear priorities, adequate resource management, and internal accountability.

That is why I am introducing the Food Safety Administration Act that would establish the Food Safety Administration under the Department of Health and Human Services by incorporating these existing food programs within FDA into this separate agency. This agency would be led by a food safety expert confirmed by the Senate.

This bicameral legislation will bring focused leadership and more accountability, a unified structure and a full-time senior leader who will strengthen oversight of the food supply and enhance the industry's ability to operate effectively.

RECOGNIZING CECELIA "CECE" KING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Cecelia "Cece" King, on the occasion of her appointment as a John Robert Lewis (JRL) Scholar by The Faith & Politics Institute (FPI) in recognition of her civic engagement and desire to create effective social change.

Ms. King was born in New York, New York and attended Riverdale Country School. During her time in high school, Ms. King was appointed as a voting member on Manhattan Community Board 8. She sat on the Land Use, Small Business, and Youth, Education, and Libraries Committees, and was a constant advocate for her community. During her junior year, Ms. King spent a semester at the School for Ethics and Global Leadership in Washington, D.C.

Ms. King now studies Arabic and Geography as a student at Dartmouth College, where she continues her dedication to social equity. Ms. King has been an active member of the Coalition for Immigration Reform and Equality at Dartmouth and the Sexual Violence Prevention Project. As a major in Geography, Ms. King has studied global movements and displacements, and together with her fellow students, some of whom were refugees themselves, formed the Dartmouth Displaced Students and Scholars Initiative, which aims to support displaced students on campus.

Outside of her education, Ms. King continues her service. She has worked as an interpreter for asylum seekers through legal clinics in New York and Texas, created a documentary film about the challenges COVID-19 posed to artists, and is a founding-member of